

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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TAGS: ECOSOC

SUBJECT: 63RD ECOSOC: GENERAL DEBATE

1. SUMMARY: JULY 15 AFTERNOON ECOSOC PLENARY COMMITTEE HEARD REMARKS FROM THE REPRESENTATIVES OF AFGHANISTAN, UGANDA, VENEZUELA, ALGERIA, NIGERIA AND SYRIA, AND THE OBSERVERS FOR EGYPT AND LIBERIA. END SUMMARY.

2. THE REPRESENTATIVE OF AFGHANISTAN CRITICIZED THE LACK OF PROGRESS ON DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS IN LDCS AND CALLED CIEC A FAILURE, PARTICULARLY FOR THE LDCS. HE EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR A UN INTERNATIONAL CODE OF CONDUCT WHICH WOULD APPLY TO CORRUPT PRACTICES OF TNCS. HE DELIVERED AN URGENT PLEA FOR BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL ASSISTANCE TO ALLEVIATE THE SUFFERING OF PEOPLE AND LIVESTOCK IN AFGHANISTAN.

3. THE REPRESENTATIVE FROM UGANDA REPORTED THAT ECONOMIC RECOVERY IN NON-OPEC DEVELOPING COUNTRIES HAD NOT BEEN GOOD. HE GAVE UGANDAN SUPPORT TO THE IDEA OF AN INTEGRATED PROGRAM FOR COMMODITIES, AND CITED THE CIEC COMMON FUND STATEMENT AS AN IMPETUS TO ONGOING COMMODITY NEGOTIATIONS. HOWEVER, CIEC HAD GENERALLY BEEN DISAPPOINTING. HUNGER AND PROBLEMS OF BASIC HUMAN NEEDS COULD BEST BE MET THROUGH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. HE SAID THAT
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HABITAT AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS SHOULD BE ADMINISTERED THROUGH UNEP. THE SYG'S PROPOSAL FOR AN ENERGY INSTITUTE WAS AN "ATTRACTIVE" IDEA, AND HE CALLED PARTICULARLY FOR EXPLORATION INTO SOLAR-POWERED IRRIGATION SYSTEMS. HE CALLED FOR ANY INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT ON CORRUPT PRACTICES TO "WAIT FOR OTHER ISSUES INVOLVED TO BE CONCLUDED."

4. VENEZUELAN REPRESENTATIVE CALLED THE PROBLEMS OF THE INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES INEXTRICABLY LINKED TO THOSE OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. HE CRITICIZED "SHORT-TERM REMEDIES," SAYING THAT THE PROBLEM WAS RATHER ONE OF GLOBAL ECONOMIC STRUCTURE. SAYING THAT INTERNATIONAL DISTRIBUTION OF WEALTH WAS BASED ON TRADE RELATIONS, HE EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR PRODUCER'S ASSOCIATIONS AND REGIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION.

5. THE ALGERIAN REPRESENTATIVE CRITICIZED CIEC FOR ITS INSUFFICIENT RESULTS BUT ADDED THAT THE DIALOGUE HAS NOT AND CANNOT BE INTERRUPTED. HE DESCRIBED THE BALANCE OF PAYMENTS SITUATION AS "IMPOSSIBLE", AND ALSO CRITICIZED EXCESSIVE PRICES OF IMPORTS, PROBLEMS OF EXTERNAL DEBT, AND THE REMAINING FOOD CRISIS AND DANGER OF FAMINE. HE CALLED FOR THE LIBERATION OF SOUTHERN AFRICANS AND PALESTINIANS AND ASKED THE WORLD COMMUNITY FOR SUPPORT OF THOSE STRUGGLES.

6. THE NIGERIAN REPRESENTATIVE SAID THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO COMMITMENT ON BEHALF OF THE INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES TO DEVELOPMENT OF THE THIRD WORLD. IMF AND GATT WERE REMOVED FROM THE PLIGHT OF THE LDCS, AND AGREEMENT ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A COMMON FUND WAS ONE SINGLE STEP IN REORDERING THE WORLD INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER. ENERGY PROBLEMS, HE SAID, CANNOT BE SINGLED OUT AND STUDIED IN ISOLATION BUT MUST BE DEALT WITH ALONG WITH PROBLEMS OF HUNGER, DISEASE, WATER, AND GENERAL ENVIRONMENT. HE CALLED FOR FURTHER FUNDING OF A REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM FOR UNCLASSIFIED

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AFRICA AND ANNOUNCED THAT NIGERIA WILL SUBMIT A DRAFT RESOLUTION TO INVOLVE THE UN SYSTEM IN AFRICAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS DEVELOPMENT.

7. SYRIA'S REPRESENTATIVE SAID THAT CIEC HAD TRIED TO CONFUSE ISSUES, PARTICULARLY ON ENERGY. HE CHARGED THAT "TERMINOLOGY MAY HAVE CHANGED BUT THE FACTS REMAIN THE SAME," AND THAT OBLIGATIONS OF THE DEVELOPED NATIONS HAD NOT BEEN MET. HE SAID THAT INTERDEPENDENCE IS NOT NECESSARILY POSITIVE, AND THAT IT WAS ESSENTIAL THAT THE THIRD WORLD HAVE A "MANAGEMENT ROLE OF ADMINISTRATION OF INTERDEPENDENCE." HE DREW PARALLELS BETWEEN THE "IMPERIALIST" GOVERNMENTS OF ISRAEL, SOUTH AFRICA, AND RHODESIA. HE ALSO EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR PLO AND EGYPTIAN MEMBERSHIP IN ECWA CALLING THIS MOVE AN "EXPRESSION OF THE UNANIMOUS WILL OF ITS MEMBER STATES."

8. THE OBSERVER FROM EGYPT CITED THE GROWING GAP BETWEEN RICH AND POOR NATIONS AND ASKED THAT THE IDS BE PUT INTO ACTION. CIEC'S MODEST OUTCOME HAD BEEN A DISAPPOINTMENT. HE CRITICIZED THE GOVERNMENTS OF SOUTHERN AFRICA AND ISRAEL, CALLING THEM RACIST, IMPERIALIST, AND COLONIALIST.

9. THE OBSERVER FROM LIBERIA GAVE A POSITIVE SPEECH, LARGELY

IN APPRECIATION OF FOREGIN AID AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. ACCORD-
ING TO HIM THE WORLD ECONOMIC COMMUNITY WAS OVERCOMING BARRIERS
AND ACHIEVING IMPORTANT RESULTS. HE EMPHASIZED LIBERIA'S
FRIENDLY RELATIONSHIP WITH FOREIGN INVESTORS AND COMPLIMENTED
THE "CANDOR" OF AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S SPEECH.VANDEN HEUVEL

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